

West Midland Region of HRGB
Minutes of Committee meeting held on 7th Sept 2024 via Zoom

Present: Richard Hartnell (Chair & NEC rep), David Hampson (Treasurer & NEC rep), Margaret Moss (secretary), Diane Dolley, Janice Sheasby, Liz Smith, Wendy Hartwright.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Jane Smith

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2024 were approved.
Proposer: Janice Sheasby, seconded by Diane Dolley.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from these minutes

4. **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chairman

The event at Albrighton W I was very successful with positive feedback from Sue Horsefall.

An additional request has been received for a similar event but with a smaller group to entertain Wolverhampton Art Society.

A request had been received from the team correspondent of the newly formed Bushley Belles team requesting that the secretary circulate details of a Rally they are hosting on 14th September 2024. The Chairman responded with a suggestion that the date be changed since the chosen date may affect attendance at the previously advertised Regional Rally in October. However, they have decided the event should go ahead!

Secretary

The region has a new Independent member, namely Ingrid Everson who lives in Wilmcote Nr Stratford -on-Avon. She rings with a small group based in Aston Cantlow. The secretary will contact Ingrid to arrange a visit.

Two other ladies are being kept informed about local events, namely Emily Wong and Margaret Price. Both are anxious to find a team to join but so far without much success. Owing to work commitments neither can join the Ensemble.

Three requests have been received for a team to play/demonstrate handbell ringing to various organisations around the Birmingham area. All three

organisations are close to Knowle. To date, Knowle HR have accommodated two of the three.

The secretary visited the team that Dee Knight has resurrected in Fillongley. The ringers are lively and enthusiastic and use an unconventional number system for reading music from one large copy - a system inherited from the previous leader. Dee is anxious to convert to a less laborious way of converting music and hopes that eventually, ringers will convert to reading staff notation. They have sourced some funding towards the cost of refurbishing the bells and are exploring ways of fundraising.

Treasurer

Since the last meeting, there has been no expenditure. The current balance in the current account stands at £2022.13 which includes £300 deposits for the 2025 BBB event and £10 for the Regional Rally. The current balance in the CCCLA account stands at £559.70

5 KINGTON BELLS

The region has been gifted a set of 33 bells which are in good condition by the family of the late Gwen Hampson. It was agreed that the bells be included on the region's insurance policy and stored at Lower Broadheath. It will be advertised in the Newsletter that these bells are available for use by the region subject to a small donation towards the cost of insurance.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 22/06/2024 NEC MEETING

- The 2026 Symposium will now be held at the P & J Live Arena and Conference Centre in Aberdeen and not at Gathesdaed
- The SW region has submitted a proposal to the NEC that the Regional Rebate be increased from 25% per member to 50%. This will have to be agreed at the 2025 AGM.
- The SW region will host a Skills Day in April 2026.
- Roger Lazenby is floating ideas around the NEC. as to who will host the 2027 Diamond Jubilee Rally. The NBO in conjunction with WMBE is one possible option. It has been made clear to the NEC that the WM region doesn't have the resources to host such a large prestigious event.

7 REGIONAL RALLY

To date, two teams have indicated they will be attending. Richard will ask for volunteers from WMBE to form a small group. Massed ringing music will be circulated shortly. The secretary will circulate a registration form to include names of possible attendees to comply with the Safeguarding Policy.

8 RECRUITMENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

Invitations to the 2025 BBB will be circulated shortly. 10 deposits have already been received.

Various suggestions were discussed on the subject of future events. Owing to Ursula Howes's health problems, Sandra Winter's Workshop had to be cancelled. Richard agreed to contact Sandra to enquire about the possibility of the region hosting a similar event. Following the success of the Albrighton W.I. event, Richard intends to hold an event near Albrighton for beginners and anyone interested in "having a go" at ringing.

It was suggested that team correspondents be contacted for their suggestions

9. REVIEW OFFICERS' ROLES

The secretary was recently asked to circulate details of an event which had been arranged without any prior notice being given to the Chairman, Secretary or any committee member. Whilst not discouraging members from holding an event, the Chairman reiterated, that members are advised to contact the Chairman, Secretary or any committee member with their intention, so that a suitable date can be agreed upon. Dates of regional events are publicised in the "Calendar of Events" circulated annually during March, a copy of which is submitted to the editor of Reverberations for inclusion and subsequently covered by the NEC's insurance. Members should be aware of these dates and avoid choosing a date that may have a possible effect on attendance at these events.

10. AOB

- Work on the Newsletter is in hand.
- The current bell cases for the Sampson bells are hugely heavy. It was agreed that Richard enquires about the cost of replacing them with cases that are easier to handle and transport.

11. Date of next meeting:

Saturday 4th January 2025